

Message Text

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AF-08 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 STR-04 CEA-01 /135 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11856

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN PFOR MX

SUBJECT: HAPPENINGS IN MEXICO CITY--ECHEVERRIA-WALDHEIM

INAUGURATE THE THIRD WORLD INSTITUTE

1. AMIDST CONFUSION, CLUTTER, AND MORE COPIES OF THE CERDS, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND UNSYG WALDHEIM INAUGURATED THE CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES OF THE THIRD WORLD ON SEPT 14 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY ADDRESSED THE G-77 (SEPTTEL). THE TWO LEADERS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE PRESIDENTS OF GABON AND GAMBIA, THE PRIME MINISTERS OF JAMAICA AND GRENADA, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF IRAQ, ASSORTED UN OFFICIALS, MOST OF THE GOM CABINET, AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT OF MEXICO JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO.

2. DESPITE THE LARGE GROUP OF DIGNITARIES, ONLY THREE SPEECHES WERE GIVEN - BY WALDHEIM, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW INSTITUTE (RAFAEL GARCIA DE QUEVEDE), AND, LASTLY, ECHEVERRIA. ALL THREE SPEECHES WERE SUITABLE TO THE EVENT STRESSING THE NEED FOR TRAINING AND THE HOPE OF SUCCESS FOR THE INSTITUTE. ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH BECAME A BIT ROUSING

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WHEN HE MADE HIS USUAL CALL FOR A STRUGGLE AGAINST

ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM BUT HE DID NOT OVERPLAY THE THEME AND EMPHASIZED HIS OBJECTION TO SUCH IMPERIALISM BE IT FROM CAPITALIST ECONOMIES OR "CENTRALLY-CONTROLLED" ECONOMIES. ECHEVERRIA ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR THIRD WORLD NATIONS TO DEVISE THEIR OWN MODELS OF DEVELOPMENT, THE THE DEVELOPED NATIONS CANNOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE THIRD WORLD, ALTHOUGH THE DEVELOPED NATIONS CAUSED THESE PROBLEMS.

3. THE CEREMONY WAS ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 1200 PEOPLE INCLUDING A LARGE NUMBER OF MEXICAN DIGNITARIES, A FRAZZLED DIPLOMATIC CORPS, SCATTERED REPS FROM THE G-77 AND MILITARY DELEGATIONS, AND MORE PRESS THAN THE EVENT SEEMED TO JUSTIFY. THE CEREMONY WAS HELD IN THE INSTITUTE'S CONFERENCE CENTER WHICH WAS ESSENTIALLY TOO SMALL FOR THE CROWD AND THEREFORE UNCOMFORTABLE. THE DECOR, WHILE ATTRACTIVE, WAS NOT CONVENIENT SINCE THE USE OF LARGE, RUSTIC MEXICAN CHAIRS REQUIRED SOME DIGNITARIES TO DO SOME UNDECOROUS CLIMBING ABOUT. THE POOR ACCESS ROADS TO THE INSTITUTE WOULD PRECLUDE USE OF THE FACILITIES FOR A LARGE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING. THIS FIRST BIG EVENT CAUSED A MASSIVE TRAFFIC JAM WHICH LEFT A NUMBER OF GUESTS FUMING IN THE HOT SUN.

4. IN RECOMPENSE ALL GUESTS, FROM CHIEFS OF STATE TO HANGERS-ON, RECEIVED A HANDWOVEN MEXICAN TOTE BAG FULL OF THREE VOLUMES ON - GUESS WHAT? - THE CERDS AND THE NIEO. AT THAT POINT, MOST WOULD HAVE PREFERRED A COLD BEER. THOMPSON

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